

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 399

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the promotion of democracy and civil society in Zaire.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. WYNN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the promotion of democracy and civil society in Zaire.

Whereas the people of the United States support the development of democratic institutions and the growth of civil society in Zaire that reflect the will of the people of Zaire;

Whereas the people of the United States applaud the efforts of Zairian civil society, and particularly of indigenous human rights groups, to promote the general welfare of Zaire's citizens, to advocate the establishment of functioning democratic institutions and the rule of law, and to ensure and respect universal human rights standards;

Whereas the people of the United States respect the right of Zairians, as recognized by the Constitutional Act of the Transition, to participate in a free and open political process, which includes the right to form competing political parties and to participate in free and fair elections;

Whereas antidemocratic and destabilizing measures of President Mobutu Sese Seko, including the intimidation of local organizations and political parties promoting democracy and the protection of fundamental human rights, the encouragement of torture, arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial killing, and extortion by the security forces under his control, and the guarantee that his supporters may act with impunity, have contributed to the obstruction of the transition to democracy in Zaire;

Whereas President Mobutu has, in violation of the Constitutional Act of the Transition, used his de facto control over the security forces and Zaire's governmental and financial institutions to undermine Zaire's transition to democracy;

Whereas this continuing intimidation of local civil society organizations and opposition political parties, widespread violation of fundamental rights, and guarantee of impunity for violators have been deplored by numerous human rights organizations in Zaire, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and the United States Government;

Whereas President Mobutu, having repeatedly failed to honor promises and commitments he has made to cooperate with international efforts to stabilize the refugee crisis in Eastern Zaire, has again, in the Declaration of the Cairo Conference of November 29, 1995, and the Tripartite meeting of Zaire, Rwanda, and the United Nations High

Commission for Refugees that was held on December 22, 1995, made similar and to date unfulfilled promises;

Whereas the United States has recognized by Presidential Proclamation that President Mobutu is the primary obstacle to the transition to democracy in Zaire; and

Whereas House Concurrent Resolution 238, unanimously passed by the 102d Congress, calling on President Mobutu to step down, was not heeded: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2           (1) expresses its profound support for Zairian  
3       nongovernmental organizations seeking to promote  
4       the protection of fundamental human rights and the  
5       transition to democracy in Zaire;

6           (2) encourages all political parties in Zaire to  
7       include representatives of civil society in every stage  
8       of the electoral process;

9           (3) condemns the continuing intimidation of  
10      those groups by military authorities in Zaire;

11          (4) condemns the continuing practice of torture,  
12      arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial execution, and extor-  
13      tion by elements of the Zairian armed forces;

14          (5) condemns the human rights violations and  
15      the intimidation of local civil society groups by the  
16      Zairian armed forces, with President Mobutu's im-  
17      plicit approval;

1           (6) urges that President Clinton continue in-  
2           definitely the sanctions already imposed upon Zaire,  
3           including—

4                   (A) the denial of visas to President  
5           Mobutu, his family, and his associates; and

6                   (B) the suspension of all forms of eco-  
7           nomic assistance to Zaire, except for that which  
8           can be offered through nongovernmental organi-  
9           zations in direct circumvention of President  
10          Mobutu and the Zairian Government;

11          (7) urges that the United States work through  
12          the United Nations Commission on Human Rights  
13          to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on  
14          Zaire and pressure the Government of Zaire to allow  
15          the Special Rapporteur to open an office in  
16          Kinshasa and to facilitate this process;

17          (8) urges the President of the United States to  
18          pressure President Mobutu to respect his commit-  
19          ments—

20                   (A) to prevent the use of Zairian territory  
21          for military incursions into Rwanda or for mili-  
22          tary or militia training; and

23                   (B) to halt the flow of arms to Hutu ex-  
24          tremists living in Eastern Zaire;

1           (9) urges the President of the United States to  
2       assist the United Nations Arms Investigators in re-  
3       moving from the refugee camps intimidators who by  
4       actual or threat of violence compel refugees to follow  
5       a political agenda of the Zairian Government;

6           (10) urges the President of the United States—

7                (A) to combat extremist propaganda in the  
8       refugee camps that is designed to undermine  
9       voluntary repatriation efforts of the United Na-  
10      tions Commission on Human Rights; and

11              (B) to cooperate with the efforts of the  
12      International Tribunal to bring the perpetrators  
13      of the Rwandan genocide to justice; and

14           (11) recommends that the United States, in col-  
15      laboration with its allies, investigate and implement  
16      other means of continuing and reinforcing inter-  
17      national pressure on President Mobutu, his family,  
18      and his associates.

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